

AMENDMENTS

In The Claims

Please add claims 17 - 30.

17. A system for scheduling an event, comprising:
 - a database that stores availability information for one or more potential invitees to the event;
 - a server operable to access the database and retrieve the availability information;
 - a user system operable to send to the server a scheduling request specifying a list of invitees, a date, a start time, and an end time and/or a duration which determines the end time, wherein
 - the server is further operable to:
 - receive the scheduling request;
 - retrieve from the database availability information for one or more of the invitees listed in the request;
 - determine whether or not the one or more invitees are available to attend the event based on the availability information;
 - send an invitation to one or more of the invitees listed in the request;
 - receive from an invitee a response to the invitation; and
 - automatically modify the availability information for the invitee if the invitee's response indicates that the invitee accepts the invitation, wherein the availability information is modified to indicate that the invitee is busy between at least the start time and end time on the date specified in the request.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the server determines whether or not the one or more invitees are available to attend the event by examining the availability information

and determining whether or not the one or more invitees are busy between the start time and end time on the date specified in the scheduling request.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the server is further operable to determine one or more alternative start times for the event, wherein the determination is based, at least in part, on the retrieved availability information.

Sub P3 > 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the determination of the one or more alternative start times is further based on weighting values assigned to one or more of the invitees.

21. The system of claim 17, wherein the scheduling request further specifies an event location and the availability information for one of the invitees includes the location of the invitee.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the server is further operable to take into account a travel time from the location of the invitee to the event location in determining whether or not the invitee is available to attend the event.

23. The system of claim 17, wherein availability information for an invitee comprises profile information and calendar information.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the profile information for an invitee comprises information regarding the invitee's work hours, the time zone in which the invitee works, and the location where the invitee works.

25. The system of claim 23, wherein the calendar information comprises information regarding events that have been scheduled for the invitee.

26. A method for scheduling an event, comprising:

storing availability information for one or more potential invitees to the event; receiving from an event coordinator a scheduling request specifying a list of invitees, a date, a start time, and an end time and/or a duration which determines the end time; retrieving availability information for one or more of the invitees listed in the request in response to receiving the request; presenting to the event coordinator information from which the event coordinator can determine whether or not the one or more invitees are available to attend the event; sending an invitation to one or more of the invitees listed in the request; receiving from an invitee a response to the invitation; and automatically modifying the availability information for the invitee in response to receiving the invitee's response if the invitee's response indicates that the invitee accepts the invitation, wherein the availability information is modified to indicate that the invitee is busy between at least the start time and end time on the date specified in the request.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein availability information for an invitee comprises profile information and calendar information.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the profile information for an invitee comprises information regarding the invitee's work hours, the time zone in which the invitee works, and the location where the invitee works.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein the calendar information comprises information regarding events that have been scheduled for the invitee.

30. A computer readable medium, having encoded thereon a computer program operative to perform the method of claim 26.